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10/054,597	01/22/2002	Gregory S. Lauer		7140

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11/16/2006

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EXAMINER

BAYAT, BRADLEY B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

This communication is in response to amendment filed on August 28, 2006

- Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended.
- Claims 1-19 remain pending.

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on 8/28/06 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: integration of "closed" service model. The examiner has reviewed the disclosure and failed to find any reference to a "closed service model."

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed August 28, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As noted above, the amendments and remarks to claims indicate a "closed" service model integrated into a single provisioning model (response p. 18). However, the disclosure and the remarks do not disclose or provide an explanation for the above noted amendment.

El-Fekih discloses that the service contract manager module 102 and QoS manager module 104 generate one or more service templates that each comprise conformance categories for a service agreement. The conformance categories may correspond to various quality

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parameters, such as an availability category, a delay category, an error category, an MTTR category, and/or a MTBSO category. Moreover, in particular embodiments of the present invention, the service agreement may not be unilateral but may also be bilateral and used to bind a customer to a certain traffic contract. Therefore, the conformance categories may include customer traffic parameters such as PCR, SCR, CDVT, GCRA, and/or UPC disagreement for ATM. A threshold range is then associated with each conformance category, which specifies a range of valid thresholds that may be defined for the particular conformance category [0103-104].

El-Fekih further discloses that the service management system 24 and/or data processing system(s) supporting the client applications 42, the capacity planning applications 44, the billing applications 46, and the service provisioning applications 48 may be configured with computational, storage, and control program resources for managing service quality, in accordance with the present invention. Thus, the service management system 24 and the data processing system(s) supporting the client applications 42, the capacity planning applications 44, the billing applications 46, and the service provisioning applications 48 may each be implemented as a single processor system, a multi-processor system, or even a network of stand-alone computer systems 0035].

The following is incorporated from the previous action by the examiner in response to applicant's arguments:

Applicant argues that in light of the amendment to the claims, the cited reference (El Fekih et al., US 2002/0039352 A1) fails to anticipate the claims since it does not provide for each element. Particularly, applicant contends that El-Fekih does not teach or suggest using a

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first graphical user interface for one of the traffic classes or for using a second graphical user interface for a second of the traffic classes to obtain an indication there of (response p. 16-17).

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

As disclosed by El Fekih and actually provided in the claims of the cited reference, “one or more service templates may be generated [0014].” In fact, El Fekih discloses, “although an SLA is typically based on a service entity, such as a VPN, the various quality parameters may be VPN based, VC based, and/or NI based. Embodiments of the present invention may be used to manage a SLA between a service provider and a customer of the service provider by first generating an SLA template or package, similar to a service package, and then associating the SLA template with the particular customer and service to create a SLA contract [0102].” A “service contract manager module 102 and QoS manager module 104 **generate one or more service templates** that each comprise conformance categories for a service agreement. The conformance categories may correspond to various quality parameters, such as an availability category, a delay category, an error category, an MTTR category, and/or a MTBSO category. Moreover, in particular embodiments of the present invention, the service agreement may not be unilateral but may also be bilateral and used to bind a customer to a certain traffic contract. Therefore, the conformance categories may include customer traffic parameters such as PCR, SCR, CDVT, GCRA, and/or UPC disagreement for ATM. A threshold range is then associated with each conformance category, which specifies a range of valid thresholds that may be defined for the particular conformance category [0103, emphasis added].”

In fact, El Fekih discloses, “a service provider and/or customer through the service contract viewer module 154 provides input to the service contract manager to **select a particular**

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service template that will be used to generate a SLA contract. The service provider and/or customer may then, at block 266, enter thresholds via the QoS viewer module 156 for each of the conformance categories in the **selected service template** that are within the range of valid thresholds specified at block 262. These thresholds will be received by the QoS manager module 104 and used by the VPN topology manager module 108 to determine whether the service and/or the network 22 quality and performance complies with the SLA contract. To generate the SLA contract, the service contract manager module 102 associates the selected service template and thresholds with a specific customer VPN at block 268 [0104, emphasis added].”

Therefore, applicant’s argument of providing more than one GUI template is without merit, since El Fekih anticipates that multiple service templates may be generated for corresponding conformance categories for a service agreement. Moreover, El Fekih discloses that the service management system may be used to generate a configuration for carrying a proposed traffic stream, wherein for instance, a client provides a proposed traffic description to the traffic shaping advisor module. Accordingly, applicant’s contention that El Fekih merely anticipates a single GUI template in managing service is without merit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The amendments to the claims identify “closed” service models; the specification fails to describe a “closed” service model.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by El-Fekih et al. (hereinafter El-Fekih), US 2002/0039352 A1.

As per the following claims, El-Fekih discloses:

1. A method for generating node configuration data, comprising: forming a service level agreement template that integrates closed and pipe service models into a single provisioning model, said forming including determining a plurality of traffic classes, determining at least one required input for a first graphical user interface, and determining at least one required input for a second graphical user interface; obtaining service level agreement constraints for at least one service level agreement, said obtaining including generating said first graphical user interface, obtaining, through said first graphical user interface, indication of a selected one of said plurality of traffic classes, obtaining, through said second graphical user interface, at least one value associated with said at least one required input for said second graphical user interface, generating said second graphical user interface, and obtaining, through said second graphical user interface, at least one value associated with said at least one required input for said second graphical user interface; and generating, responsive to said selected one of said plurality of traffic classes, said at least one value associated with said at least one required input for said first graphical user interface, and said at least one value associated with said at least one required input for said second graphical user interface, node configuration data, said node configuration data describing how at least one resource in at least one networking device is to be configured to

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support at least one network service described by said selected one of said plurality of traffic classes, said at least one value associated with said at least one required input for said first graphical user interface (§§14-21; 43-48, 101-114; figures 15, 18-20 and associated text).

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising: determining at least one default equation associated with said first graphical user interface; applying said default equation to said at least one value associated with said at least one required input for said first graphical user interface to generate a first set of outputs; and wherein said generating said node configuration data is further responsive to said first set of outputs (§§39, 83-98).

3. The method of claim 1, said forming said service level agreement template further comprising: determining at least one optional input for said first graphical user interface; determining at least one format of at least one screen display in said first graphical user interface, wherein said at least one screen format includes a first field associated with said required input for said first graphical user interface and a second field associated with said optional input for said second graphical user interface; and wherein said generating said first graphical user interface includes displaying said at least one screen display (figures 1 and associated text, §§40-42, 104-110).

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one default equation comprises program code (§§70-87; figures 3-6 and associated text).

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining said at least one required input for said

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second graphical user interface further comprises determining required information describing at least one resource associated with at least one networking device, wherein said required information associated with said at least one resource describes, at least in part, a virtual private network (figures 18-20 and associated text).

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said required information describing said at least one resource comprises a virtual network identifier (§37-57).

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said required information describing said at least one resource comprises an indication of whether connectivity is required between said at least one networking device and a second networking device (figure 7 and associated text).

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said forming said service level agreement template further includes: determining at least one optional input for said second graphical user interface, determining at least one format of at least one screen display in said second graphical user interface, wherein said at least one screen format includes a first field associated with said required input for said second graphical user interface and a second field associated with said at least one optional input for said second graphical user interface; and wherein said generating said second graphical user interface includes displaying said at least one screen display in said second graphical user interface responsive to said at least one format (§32-52).

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein said forming a service level agreement template comprises receiving at least one input through a third graphical user interface (§50).

Claims 10-19 are directed to a system of the above claimed method and are rejected as above.

Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: U.S. Patent 6,822,940 B1 to Zavalkovsky et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley B. Bayat whose telephone number is 571-272-6704. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on 571-272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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Patent Examiner
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